UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE _3_ MONTH(S) FROM
THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- .Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _25 March 2004_.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) _1-11 and 13-31_ is/are pending in the application.

   4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☒ Claim(s) _7,8,25 and 27-29_ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) _1-6,9-11,13-24,26,30 and 31_ is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____· are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

   Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

   Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

   a)☐ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

   1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

   2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

   3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

   * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
   Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
   Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment (B)

1.   This action is in response to the communication filed on 3/05/04.

2.   Claims 1-31 are pending in this action.

3.   Claim 12 has been cancelled.

4.   Claim 31 is newly added claim.

5.   Claims 7, 8 and 25, 27-29 are allowed.

6.   This action is final.

7.   A change in ground of rejection has been made as necessitated by applicant's amendment of the claims.

Claim Objections

Claim 6 is objected to because of the following informalities: the claim needs a punctuation sign at the end of the word "means" on line 8. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 6 recites the limitation "the user" and "the received message" in lines 9 and 10 respectively. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 5 recites the limitation "the received message" in lines 8-9. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 3, 5-6, 9-11, 13-24, 26 and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aoki (US 5,977,880) in view of Klein (US 6,496,853 B1).

As per claim 9: a method for handling a message exchange session between wireless communication terminals including steps of:

• generating a list of communication terminals to be invited to participate in the message exchange session reads on '880 (see col. 3, lines 14-60; col. 5, line 44-col. 6, line 15).

• inputting a message text reads on '880 (see col. 10, lines 7-25).

• transmitting said message text to the communication terminals listed on said list reads on '880 (see col. 3, lines 29-60; col. 5, line 38-col. 6, line 14; col. 15, lines 34-39; col. 16, lines 49-57).

• receiving a reply from one of the communication terminals listed on said list reads on '880 (see col. 3, lines 29-60; col. 5, line 38-col. 6, line 14; col. 8, lines 40-65).

• transmitting the reply from said one of the communication terminals to the communication terminals listed on said list reads on '880 (see col. 3, lines 29-60; col. 10, lines 7-25; col. 15, lines 34-39; col. 16, lines 49-57). But, Aoki does not explicitly teach about automatically and successively adding the received message reply above a previous message text prior to transmission of the reply from one of the communication terminals to the communication terminals listed on the list, as claimed by applicant. However, in a related field of endeavor, Klein teaches that it is known for a reply message to include a previously received message either by manual or automatic means in a technique known as threading which is a successive inclusion of a reply message to previous messages (see col. 1, lines 33-58; col. 5, lines 17-50; col. 8, lines 1-22); Klein asserts that although message thread provides some benefit, it also creates problems associated with message redundancy (see col. 1, lines 59-63). It can clearly be seen that Klein teaches about an improved message thread wherein messages are monitored and removed if similar to one already received and unwanted (see col. 2, lines 21-52). Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the teaching of Aoki with that of Klein for the advantage of deleting redundant messages from the message exchanging process (see col. 2, lines 21-52).

As per claim 10: a method, wherein said message text is successively transmitted to each of said communication terminals listed on said list reads on '880 (see col. 21, lines 30-40; col. 28, lines 38-47). According to the prior art the messages are transmitted successively or in batch.

As per claim 11: a method wherein said reply is successively retransmitted to each of said communication terminals listed on said list apart from the replying one reads on '880 (see col. 3, lines 29-60; col. 15, lines 34-39; col. 16, lines 49-57).

As per claim 13: a wireless communication terminal having a message exchange session handling application for handling messages in a message exchange session in a wireless communication system, said terminal comprises:

• means for generating a list of communication terminals to be invited to participate in the message exchange session reads on '880 (see col. 3, lines 14-60; col. 5, line 44-col. 6, line 15).

• means for inputting a message text reads on '880 (see col. 10, lines 7-25).

• means for transmitting said message text to the communication terminals listed on said list reads on '880 (see col. 3, lines 29-60; col. 5, lines 44-67; col. 15, lines 34-39; col. 16, lines 49-57).

• means for receiving a reply from one of the communication terminals listed on said list reads on '880 (see col. 3, lines 29-60; col. 8, lines 40-65).

• means for transmitting the reply from said one of the communication terminals to the communication terminals listed on said list reads on '880 (see col. 3, lines 29-60; col. 10, lines 7-25; col. 15, lines 34-39; col. 16, lines 49-57). But, Aoki does not explicitly teach about automatically adding the received reply above a previous message text prior to retransmission of the reply from one of the communication terminals to the communication terminals listed on the list, as claimed by applicant. However, in a related field of endeavor, Klein teaches that it is known for a reply message to include a

previously received message either by manual or automatic means in a technique
known as threading which is a successive inclusion of a reply message to previous
messages (see col. 1, lines 33-58; col. 5, lines 17-50; col. 8, lines 1-22); Klein asserts
that although message thread provides some benefit, it also creates problems
associated with message redundancy (see col. 1, lines 59-63). It can clearly be seen
that Klein teaches about an improved message thread wherein messages are
monitored and removed if similar to one already received and unwanted (see col. 2,
lines 21-52). Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at
the time the invention was made to modify the teaching of Aoki with that of Klein for the
advantage of deleting redundant messages from the message exchanging process (see
col. 2, lines 21-52).

As per claim 14: a wireless communication terminal wherein the transmission means
successively transmits said message text to each of said communication terminals
listed on said list reads on '880 (see col. 21, lines 30-40; col. 28, lines 38-47). According
to the prior art the messages are transmitted successively or in batch.

As per claim 15: a wireless communication terminal wherein the transmission means
successively re-transmits said reply to each of said communication terminals listed on
said list apart from the replying one reads on '880 (see col. 3, lines 29-60; col. 15, lines
34-39; col. 16, lines 49-57).

As per claim 16: a wireless communication terminal wherein the terminal includes
means for adding the reply message text above the previous message text prior to the

retransmission of the reply from said one of the communication terminals to the

communication terminals listed on said list reads on "853 (see col. 5, lines 17-50).

As per claim 1: a method for handling a message exchange session between

wireless communication terminals via a wireless network, and including steps of:

• initiating a message exchange session reads on '543 (see col. 1, lines 64-67). A

question is a message as asserted in the prior art.

• identifying in a first communication terminal at least one other communication terminal

to be invited to participate in the message exchange session reads on '880 (see col. 3,

lines 14-60).

• inputting a message text reads on 880 (col. 10, lines 7-25).

• transmitting said message text to said at least one other communication terminal reads

on '880 (see col. 3, lines 24-35; col. 10, lines 16-25).

• transmitting said message text to the other communication terminal being party to the

message exchange reads on '880' (see col. 3, lines 29-60; col. 16, lines 49-57). But,

Aoki does not explicitly teach about inputting a reply text message and adding same to

a received message wherein the reply message text is being automatically and

successively added above a previous message text prior to transmission to

transmission of the reply, as claimed by applicant. However, in a related field of

endeavor, Klein teaches that it is known for a reply message to include a previously

received message either by manual or automatic means in a technique known as

threading which is a successive inclusion of a reply message to previous messages

(see col. 1, lines 33-58; col. 5, lines 17-50; col. 8, lines 1-22); Klein asserts that although

message thread provides some benefit, it also creates problems associated with message redundancy (see col. 1, lines 59-63). It can clearly be seen that Klein teaches about an improved message thread wherein messages are monitored and removed if similar to one already received and unwanted (see col. 2, lines 21-52). Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the teaching of Aoki with that of Klein for the advantage of deleting redundant messages from the message exchanging process (see col. 2, lines 21-52).

As per claim 17: the method wherein when responding to a received message the message text inputted for replying to the received message is an arbitrary string of message text inputted by a replying user reads on '880 (see abstract; col. 3, lines 26-60; col. 10, lines 7-25).

As per claim 18: the method wherein the message exchange session comprises an arbitrary exchange of messages between at least the first communication terminal and the at least one other communication terminal invited to participate in the message exchange session reads on '880 (see figs. 2 and 3, element 4; col. 5, line 38-col. 6, line 14; col. 10, lines 7-25).

As per claim 19: the method wherein the message text for replying to the received message is a random message text and is not dependent on the received message reads on '880 (see figs. 2 and 3, element 4; col. 5, line 38-col. 6, line 14; col. 10, lines 7-25). The key question here is the message being text, but not whether the message is random or not, which is a subjective feature dependent up on the user.

As per claim 20: the method wherein the at least other communication terminal to be

invited to participate can view the message exchange history prior to inputting a

message that is independent of the message exchange session history reads on '880

(see figs. 2 and 3, element 4; col. 5, line 38-col. 6, line 14; col. 10, lines 7-25). The key

question here is the message being text, but not whether the message is random or not,

which is a subjective feature dependent up on the user.

As per claim 21: the method wherein the message exchange session is a free-flowing

exchange of messages, wherein one message is not necessarily dependent on another

message reads on '880 (see figs. 2 and 3, element 4; col. 5, line 38-col. 6, line 14; col.

10, lines 7-25). The key question here is the message being text, but not whether the

message is random or not, which is a subjective feature dependent up on the user.

As per claim 22: the method wherein any one of the wireless communication terminals

can initiate a message exchange session and generate a message requesting a

response reads on '880 (see abstract; col. 3, lines 14-60). A terminal that can send and

receive messages can send a **reply/response** request message, because the request

is still a message.

As per claim 23: the method further comprising inputting a second message text and

transmitting said second message text prior to receiving a reply to a first message text

reads on '880 (see abstract; col. 3, lines 14-60). Sending a second message when a

first messages gets no response is obvious.

As per claim 24: the method further comprising in the first communication terminal,

receiving the message text for replying to the received message and adding the

received message text as a new line to a beginning of a last received message reads on '853 (see col. 5, 17-50).

As per claim 26: the method wherein the at least one other communication terminal receives and displays the second message text while a message text is being inputted for replying to the first message reads on '853 (see col. 7, lines 11-16).

As per claim 31: the method wherein inputting a message text for replying to the received message comprises input a variable length message string as the reply message reads on

As per claim 3: a wireless communication terminal having a message exchange session handling application for handling messages in a message exchange session in a wireless communication system, said terminal comprises:

• a software application having means for initiating a message exchange session, said initiating means includes reads on '543 (see col. 1, lines 64-67; col. 7, line 24-col. 8, line 18). A <u>question</u> is a form of message as asserted in the prior art.

• means for identifying at least one other communication terminal to be invited to participate in the message exchange session reads on '880 (see col. 3, lines 14-60).

• means for entering a text input as a message text reads on 880 (col. 10, lines 7-25).

• a transmitter for transmitting said message text to said at least one other communication terminal reads on '880 (see col. 3, lines 24-35; col. 10, lines 16-25).

• a receiver for receiving a reply from said at least one other communication terminal reads on '880 (see abstract).

• said software application furthermore having means for replying to a message during a

message exchange session reads on 880 (see abstract).

• means for entering a text input reads on '880 (see col. 10, lines 7-25). But, Aoki does

not explicitly teach about a means for automatically and successively adding said text

input string to the received message text prior to transmission of the reply, for

generating an aggregate message text for replying by means of the transmitter to the

other communication terminal, as claimed by applicant. However, in a related field of

endeavor, Klein teaches that it is known for a reply message to include a previously

received message either by manual or automatic means in a technique known as

threading which is a successive inclusion of a reply message to previous messages

(see col. 1, lines 33-58; col. 5, lines 17-50; col. 8, lines 1-22); Klein asserts that although

message thread provides some benefit, it also creates problems associated with

message redundancy (see col. 1, lines 59-63). It can clearly be seen that Klein teaches

about an improved message thread wherein messages are monitored and removed if

similar to one already received and unwanted (see col. 2, lines 21-52). Therefore, it

would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was

made to modify the teaching of Aoki with that of Klein for the advantage of deleting

redundant messages from the message exchanging process (see col. 2, lines 21-52).

Note: any of the communicating terminals can be considered as the other terminal.

As per claim 30: the wireless communication terminal wherein each communication

terminal is a mobile telephone reads on '853 (see col. 26, lines 55-62).

As per claim 5: a wireless communication terminal having a message exchange

session handling application for handling messages in a message exchange session in

wireless communication system, said terminal comprises:

said software application further having means for relying to a message during a

message exchange session reads on "880 (see col. 7, line 44-col. 8, line 18).

means for entering a text message reads on '880 (see fig. 5, element 26; col. 7,

lines 24-35; col. 10, lines 7-16). But, Aoki does not explicitly teach about a means for

automatically adding, a text input string as a reply to a received message, adding said

text input string successively to the received message text for generating an aggregate

message text for replying to the message, prior to a transmission of the reply, as

claimed by applicant. However, in a related field of endeavor, Klein teaches that it is

known for a reply message to include a previously received message either by manual

or automatic means in a technique known as threading which is a successive inclusion

of a reply message to previous messages (see col. 1, lines 33-58; col. 5, lines 17-50;

col. 8, lines 1-22); Klein asserts that although message thread provides some benefit, it

also creates problems associated with message redundancy (see col. 1, lines 59-63). It

can clearly be seen that Klein teaches about an improved message thread wherein

messages are monitored and removed if similar to one already received and unwanted

(see col. 2, lines 21-52). Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill

in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the teaching of Aoki with that of

Klein for the advantage of deleting redundant messages from the message exchanging

process (see col. 2, lines 21-52).

As per claim 6: a computer program product stored on a computer readable storage

medium, comprising:

• computer readable program code means for replying to a message during a message

exchange session in a wireless communication system, said computer readable

program code means provides a message exchange session handling application in a

wireless communication terminal; and said computer readable program code means

reads on "880 (see col. 7, line 44-col. 8, line 18).

• handles a text input entered by the user reads on '880 (see fig. 5, element 26; col. 7,

lines 24-35; col. 10, lines 7-16). But, Aoki does not explicitly teach about a computer

readable storage medium that automatically and successively adds a user input text

reply string above the received message text for generating aggregate message text to

replying to the message prior to a transmission of the reply, as claimed by applicant.

However, in a related field of endeavor, Klein teaches that it is known for a reply

message to include a previously received message either by manual or automatic

means in a technique known as threading which is a successive inclusion of a reply

message to previous messages (see col. 1, lines 33-58; col. 5, lines 17-50; col. 8, lines

1-22); Klein asserts that although message thread provides some benefit, it also creates

problems associated with message redundancy (see col. 1, lines 59-63). It can clearly

be seen that Klein teaches about an improved message thread wherein messages are

monitored and removed if similar to one already received and unwanted (see col. 2,

lines 21-52). Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at

the time the invention was made to modify the teaching of Aoki with that of Klein for the

advantage of deleting redundant messages from the message exchanging process (see

col. 2, lines 21-52). Note: a computer readable medium would have been obvious to

the combined message processing systems.

Claims 2 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over
Aoki in view of King as applied to claims 1 and 3 above, and further in view of Raith (US
6,385,461 B1).

As per claim 2: but, Aoki in view of Klein do not explicitly teach about a method
wherein a point-to-point short message service in the wireless network is used as
message exchange session as claimed by applicant. However, in a related field of
endeavor, Raith teaches about the use of point-to-point short message service utilized
by user group in a cellular network (see col. 2, lines 36-55; col. 3, line 59-col. 4, line 49;
col. 7, line 21-col. 8, line 43). Raith also teaches that all cellular standards currently
support the SMS service. Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill
in the art at the time the invention was made to further modify the teaching of Aoki and
Klein with that of Raith for the advantage of Aoki's terminal/s to be supported by the
SMS standard which is widely used by the wider wireless communication systems.

As per claim 4: Aoki does not explicitly teach about a wireless communication wherein
the transmitter transmits the message text by means of a point-to-point short message
service in the wireless network, as claimed by applicant. However, Raith teaches this
feature as discussed in the rejection of claim 2. So, ground of rejection and motivation
for claim 4, is the same as provided in claim 2.

Claim 30 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aoki in
view of Klein, as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Lefevre et al. (Lefevre)
(US 6,580,917 B1).

As per claim 31: Aoki in view of Klein do not explicitly teach about inputting a variable
length message string as a reply message, as claimed by applicant. However, in a
related field of endeavor, Lefevre teaches about a mobile station that includes a variable
input field length for text message (see col. 2, line 48-col. 3, line 43). As can be seen

from Lefevre's reference, two message text fields are provided. One is constant field for quick message execution. The other is variable, which depends upon the message to be executed. The variable text message field can advantageously be changed by the user. Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to further modify the above references with the teaching of Lefevre for the advantage of making transmitting text information easier for a user a a mobile station/a portable radiotelephone (see col. 2, lines 27-31).

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-6, 9-11, 13-24, 26 and 30 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 7-8, 25 and 27-29 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

As per claims 7-8, 25 and 27-29: the claims are directed to wireless group messaging system. The prior art of record does not teach or fairly suggest a message exchange session handling server successively adding received message text from a group of communication terminals in order to update a message text that is to be transmitted to the group communication terminals participating in the group message exchange session, as recited in claims 7 and 8.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Meless N Zewdu whose telephone number is (703) 306-5418. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 am to 5:00 pm..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, William Trost can be reached on (703) 308-5318. The fax phone number for

the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the

Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for

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you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic

Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Meless Zewdu

Examiner

10 June 2004.

WILLIAM TROST
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600